Message Text

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P R 281501Z FEB 78 ZDK FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA AMEMBASSY PARIS

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KINSHAS ALSO FOR DAO

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PINS CG

SUBJECT: REPORTED COUP ATTEMPT IN ZAIRE

- 1. PRESIDENCY SECGEN LT COLONEL BUREGEYA ASKED ME ANXIOUSLY FEBRUARY 28 WHETHER I HAD ANY NEWS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE. EXPLAINED HE HAD HEARD THAT OVER 200 FAZ OFFICERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN WAKE OF ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT. COMMENTED THAT ENTIRE ZAIREN OFFICER CORPS MUST HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN COUP PLOTTING.
- 2. I REPLIED I HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION AT ALL, THANKS PARTLY TO OUR OWN COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, BUT ADDED I TOO HAD HEARD THAT SOME OFFICERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED (I HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE SO NUMEROUS) ON CHARGES OF PLOTTING AGAINST MOBUTU. BUREGEYA SAID HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERNED THAT BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS WERE TAKING SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CLEARCUT POSITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT.

3. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS RWANDAN MILITARY RATHER SLAVISHLY IMITATE ZAIRANS, IT IS NOT SURPIRISING THAT WORD OF ATTEMPTED COUP THERE SHOULD CAUSE RIPPLES OF

ANXIETY HERE. REQUEST INFO AND SPECIFICALLY ANYTHING CONCRETE I CAN PASS ALONG TO BUREGEYA.

4. INCIDENTWLY, ALTHOUGH BUREGEYA MADE NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN REPORTED COUP ATTEMPT AND OUR ATTACHES' SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM KIGALI, IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT HE RAISED THESE TWO SUBJECTS BACK TO BACK.

CRIGLER

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: REPORTED COUP ATTEMPT IN ZAIRE

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